

## Message Text

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17

ORIGIN NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 /141 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN  
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN  
S/PRS - MR. KING (INFO)  
H - MISS FOLGER (INFO)  
IO/P - MR. BLACHLY  
EUR/P - MR. SAVAGE  
NEA/ARN - MR. KORN  
AF/P - MRS. RUSSELL

----- 111103

R 111955Z SEP 74  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
USMISSION GENEVA  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
AMEMBASSY MANAMA  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
AMEMBASSY TUNIS  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI  
AMEMBASSY RABAT  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
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USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY SANAA  
USINT BAGHDAD

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PFOR  
SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS  
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING SEPTEMBER 11,  
1974:

QUOTE: Q. WHEN ARE WE GOING TO GET SOME INFORMATION ON  
THE RABIN VISIT, THAT IS TO SAY, THE TALKS THIS MORNING?

A. WELL, I WOULD EXPECT THAT FOLLOWING THE LUNCHEON THAT  
THE SECRETARY AND THE PRIME MINISTER -- THE WORKING  
LUNCHEON HERE -- THAT THEY WILL COME DOWN, AND YOU CAN GET  
A READ-OUT THERE.

INSOFAR AS THE BREAKFAST THIS MORNING IS CONCERNED, THE  
SECRETARY HAD BREAKFAST AT BLAIR HOUSE WITH THE PRIME  
MINISTER AND AMBASSADOR DINITZ WAS ALSO PRESENT. IT WAS  
A BREAKFAST OF THREE. IT WAS ABOUT A TWO AND A QUARTER  
HOUR BREAKFAST, BEGINNING AT EIGHT O'CLOCK. AND THIS WAS  
A REVIEW OF THE OVER-ALL SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

AND THEN IN DISCUSSING BILATERAL QUESTIONS, THEY DISCUSSED  
FINANCIAL AND MILITARY QUESTIONS.

THAT IS ALL I CAN GIVE YOU ON THE BREAKFAST, BUT I WOULD  
ASSUME AFTER THE WORKING LUNCH YOU OUGHT TO BE ABLE TO GET  
SOME MORE.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING REGARDING THE REPORT IN A BEIRUT  
NEWSPAPER OF FIFTY SOVIET MIG-23S GOING TO EGYPT?

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A. I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING. I HAVE SEEN THE REPORT. I  
DON'T HAVE ANY COMMENT ON IT.

Q. PRESIDENT SADAT HAS JUST GIVEN A CHOICE TO ISRAEL,  
EITHER WITHDRAWAL OR WAR. DO YOU THINK THAT THIS KIND OF  
STATEMENT, WHEN THE PEACE EFFORTS ARE NOW TAKING PLACE IN  
WASHINGTON, IS CONDUCIVE TO THE ATMOSPHERE OF PEACE?

A. ON STATEMENTS SUCH AS THIS, OBVIOUSLY WE HOPE THAT THERE WILL BE THE BEST ATMOSPHERE POSSIBLE CREATED IN ORDER TO CONTINUE DOWN THE NEGOTIATING TRACK WHICH, AS YOU ALL KNOW, THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT BELIEVES IS THE ONLY SENSIBLE TRACK, SO THAT WE CAN ARRIVE AT A FINAL PEACEFUL SOLUTION IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

Q. DOES THE STATEMENT CONTRIBUTE TO THE ATMOSPHERE OR DETRACT FROM IT?

A. I JUST DON'T WANT TO GET INTO IT.

Q. DO WE HAVE ANY AWARENESS OF THE EGYPTIAN INTENTIONS TO OPEN THE SUEZ CANAL BEFORE A PEACE AGREEMENT IS COMPLETED.

A. WELL, I AM AWARE OF THE REPORT.

Q. DID THEY SAY THAT PUBLICLY?

A. YES, THEY DID; I BELIEVE PRESIDENT SADAT SAID IT, AS I RECALL. WE HAVEN'T ANY INDEPENDENT INFORMATION ABOUT THIS REPORTED SPEECH OF THE PRESIDENT. HOWEVER THE STATEMENT AS REPORTED CONFORMS WITH WHAT WE UNDERSTAND TO BE THE EGYPTIAN POLICY ON THE REOPENING OF THE CANAL. AND NEEDLESS TO SAY, WE LOOK FORWARD TO THIS, WHICH, ALONG WITH THE CURRENT RECONSTRUCTION IN THE CANAL AREA, REPRESENTS A MOVEMENT TOWARDS PEACE AND STABILITY IN THE AREA.

Q. THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN PREVENTING A NEW OUTBREAK OF FIGHTING BETWEEN THE ISRAELIS AND THE EGYPTIANS LAST WEEK. CAN YOU GIVE US ANYTHING ON THAT?

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A. ACCORDING TO OUR INFORMATION, THERE IS NOTHING TO THIS REPORT AT ALL.

Q. DOES THE UNITED STATES, OR THE STATE DEPARTMENT, BELIEVE THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE BEEN PROVIDING SYRIA WITH MAJOR IMPROVEMENTS IN THE QUALITY OF ARMS, AS WELL AS QUANTITY?

Q. WE ARE AWARE, AS I HAVE SAID HERE BEFORE OF SOVIET ARMS SHIPMENTS TO SYRIA, BUT I JUST DON'T HAVE ANY COMMENT ON IT AT ALL.

Q. WHERE DO THESE REPORTS COME FROM?

A. I DON'T WANT TO GET INTO IT. END QUOTE. KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

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